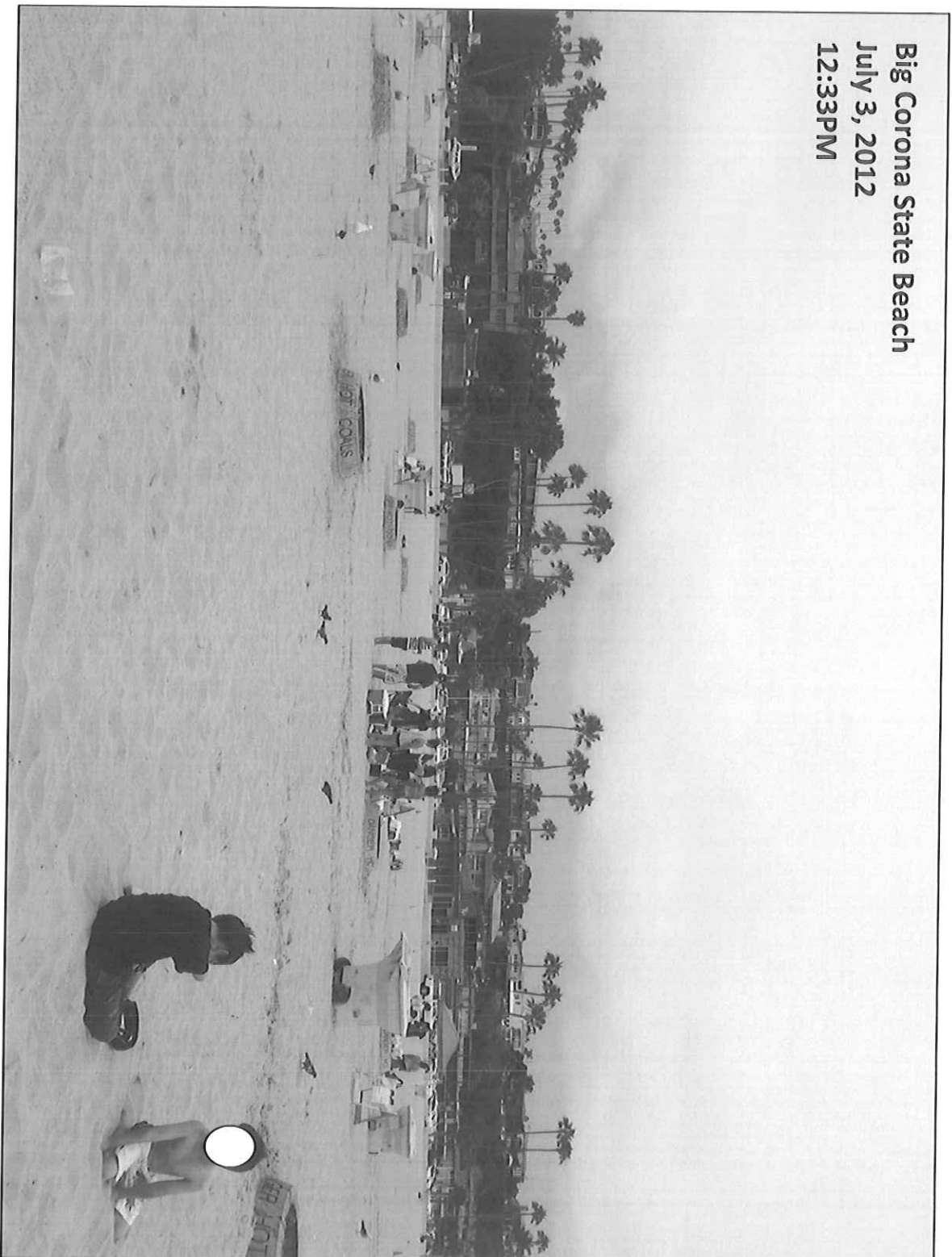


# **Attachment No. CCC 7**

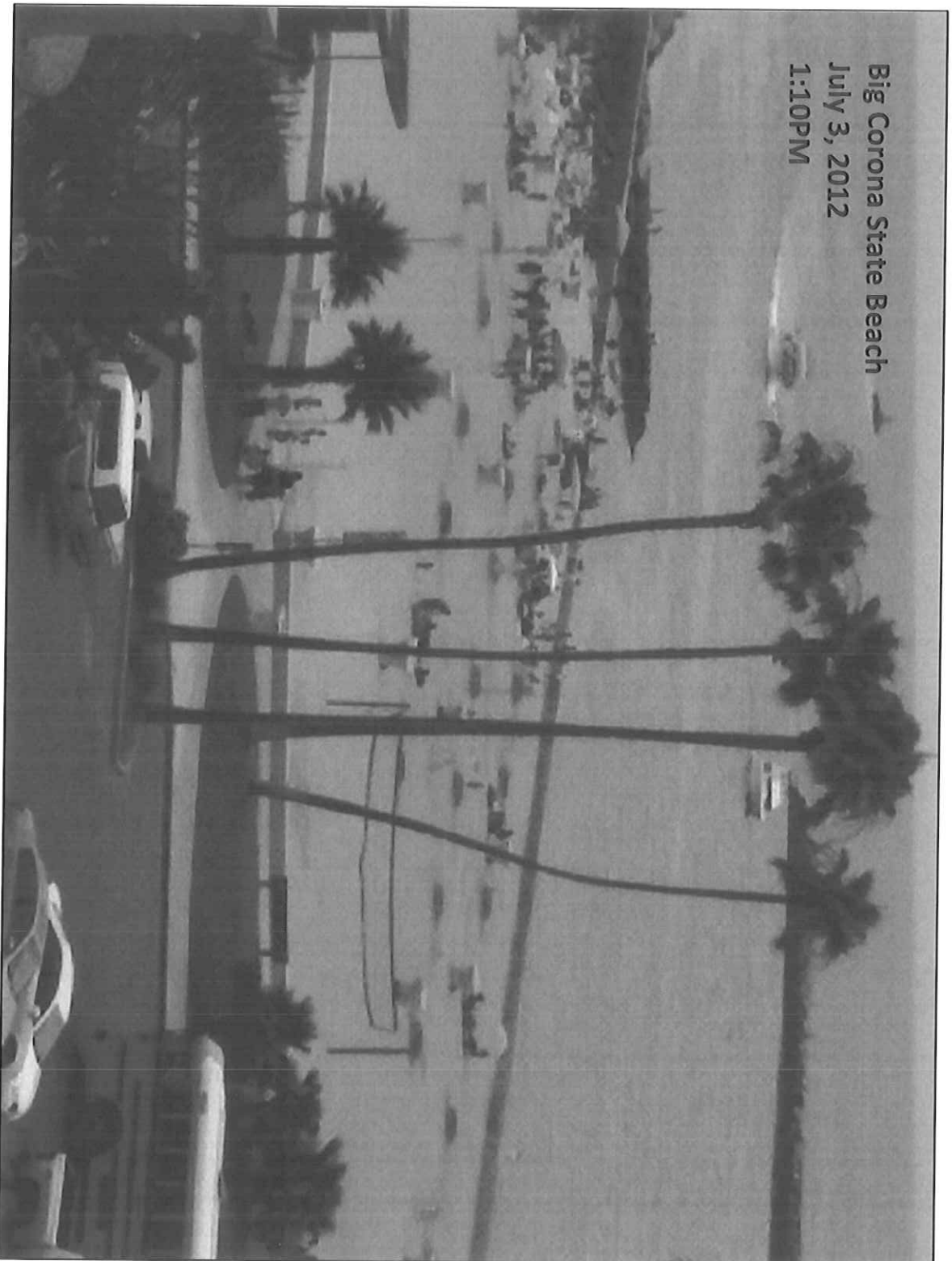
Correspondence received

Photographic Exhibit 1

Big Corona State Beach  
July 3, 2012  
12:33PM



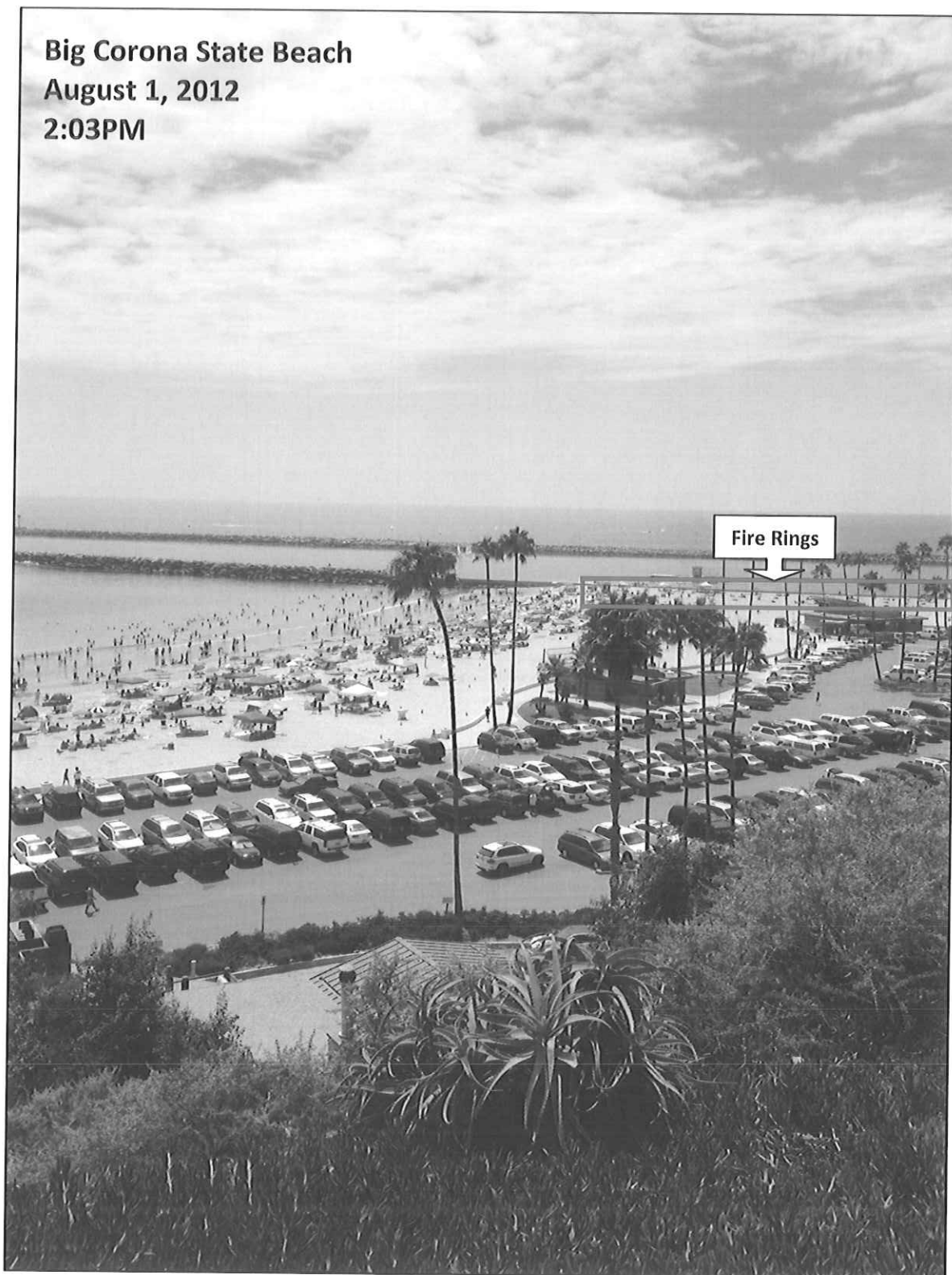
Big Corona State Beach  
July 3, 2012  
1:10PM



**Big Corona State Beach**

**August 1, 2012**

**2:03PM**



Dear Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

Between Christmas and New Years day I went to the funeral of my Breakers Drive neighbor who sadly died too soon from lung cancer. On January 5, 2012, I returned home with my family to Breakers Drive at about 8pm and we saw HUGE bonfires at the fire rings at Big Corona. The air was filled with thick, black smoke as SUV after SUV arrived to throw more Christmas trees onto the bonfires.

We see bonfires like this at the fire rings throughout the year. I've seen people burn entire bureaus, covered with paint or lacquered chemicals, and various forms of plastic trash. But even when they are burning clean wood, they are filling our air with toxic chemicals that are known to cause cancer. Please take a look at this link, [www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general\\_faq.pdf](http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general_faq.pdf), to learn why the AQMD has banned new indoor or outdoor wood burning devices, effective in our area as of November 2011.

The EPA tells us:

*Wood smoke is 12 times more carcinogenic than equal amounts of tobacco smoke and attacks our body cells up to 40 times longer than tobacco smoke.*

We don't let people smoke a cigarette on the beach for health and safety reasons. How can we continue to allow the fire rings that generate enormous quantities of wood smoke, known to be far more dangerous to our health?

My husband's mother also died during the holidays of respiratory distress. She suffered asthma attacks when she visited our home. Did you know that the tiny particles of wood smoke are so small that windows and doors cannot keep it out?

*"Inhaling wood smoke particulate matter increases the incidence, duration and severity of respiratory disease, striking hardest at children, the elderly and those with lung or heart disorders. The EPA warns that there is no safe level of these carcinogens".* ([www.burningissues.org](http://www.burningissues.org), endorsed by the National Safety Council)

There was something painfully wrong to say goodbye at Christmas to a loved relative and a good neighbor, both of whom died from lung disease, and then to see people burning Christmas trees filling the air we all must breathe with carcinogenic smoke particles. The experts at the American Lung Association, the EPA, the SCAQMD, and many agencies around the world all agree: WE SHOULD ALL AVOID BREATHING BURNING WOOD! And they mean all year long, not just at Christmas.

Please, do everything in your power to remove the fire rings from Big Corona. Thank you.

Dear Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

My name is Charlotte Stephens and I am the owner of 3014 Breakers Drive, Corona del Mar, Ca. My property is very close to the fire rings at Big Corona. I would like to see the fire rings removed.

My granddaughter suffers from asthma. She is now a young mother herself, but when she was growing up, she would visit me often. We couldn't even enjoy a summer evening, as we would have to close all the doors and windows to try to keep the smoke out. Visiting her grandmother brought on painful asthma attacks, directly because of the smoke from the fire rings. Now, I know that closing the doors and windows was of no use because the particles of wood smoke are so tiny that they came through anyway.

Waking up in the morning was hardest of all. As you may know, we often have a marine layer near the beach. The marine layer seemed to trap the smoke and smells of the fire rings and my next door neighbors said it would set off their smoke alarms. The smell in the morning, as we opened our deck doors, was horrible. The marine layer dampens the ashes, but the stench is horrible with all the soot and ash of things they shouldn't burn. We would see ash and soot on our decks, furniture, and roof. It would linger in our home and make us feel sick.

So many experts and scientists around the world have provided proof that wood smoke increases the problems with asthma and lung disease and many other health problems, especially with children and elderly people. The EPA, the American Lung Association, and the AQMD all say breathing these carcinogenic particles is very bad for us. I know this is true, because my granddaughter suffered so much whenever she visited me. My granddaughter now has a child of her own, and I hope that you will remove these deadly fire rings so that my granddaughter will be able to come to my home without fear of being unable to breath, or fear for the health of her child.

Thank you.

Charlotte Stephens

Dr. Jack B. Larson  
3024 Breakers Drive  
Corona del Mar, CA 92625

Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission  
City Of Newport Beach  
3300 Newport Blvd.  
Newport Beach, CA 92663

January 17, 2012

RE: Fire Rings at Big Corona Beach

Dear Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission,

This letter is to express my support for the removal of the fire rings at Big Corona Beach. The rings should be removed as they are a potential hazard to beach-goers and a significant liability to the city without adding to the quality of life to residents or visitors.

In fact the smoke and embers from the fire rings at Big Corona create toxic smoke polluting the air for both people and wildlife in the area. It seems beyond comprehension that the State of California requires automobile smog checks and discourages smoking cigarettes in part due to second hand smoke but allows the amount of smoke that emanates from the beach fire rings to go unabated. The toxic ash from the rings spreads to and into nearby homes, including my residence on Breakers Drive, and ends up in the ocean after rain storms turning the ocean into the city's ash-tray. Additionally, the fire rings pose risks for injury and burns to small children that may be at the beach which would be a tragedy and a significant liability to the city.

Due to these significant problems I am urging the Parks Beaches and Recreation Commission to remove the fire rings from Big Corona Beach to benefit the residents, visitors and our environment.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr Jack B. Larson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Jack B. Larson

***Tod and Peggie Parrott***  
***3130 Breakers Drive***  
***Corona del Mar, CA 92625***  
***949-673-2876***  
***Peggieparrott@gmail.com***

November 2, 2011

Newport Beach City Council  
Nancy Gardner, district six  
Mark Harmon, dir.of Municipal Operations  
3300 Newport Blvd.  
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my husband and my concern regarding the fire rings at the Corona del Mar State beach. As I grew up on Breakers Dr., I have seen many changes since 1953. Years ago the fire rings were populated by families roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. Today I see a minimal use by families and a surge of young adults trying to leap over the roaring bonfires as a passage of manhood. The lawyers are already out to represent and benefit from the unfortunate ones as we see in Huntington Beach.

Please consider removing these for the safety of our community.

We really appreciate your addressing this issue at this time.

Warm regards,

Peggie Parrott



To Whom It Concerns:

On behalf of my household on Breakers Drive, the "frontline", I would like to express my concerns for the fire rings on Big Corona State Beach. My family has lived on this street for the last 3 to 4 decades and for me it has been the last six years. There are two major issues with having the fire rings here.

First are the health problems they can cause. I am sure there is plenty evidence that wood smoke can create health concerns. It is clear how serious the smoke is when you awake the next morning and there is ash on your car along with the sand. Also having the front sliding glass doors open during warmer seasons create this same problem, but for our furniture. For instance my mother has to wipe down our counters and leather seating in the living room and kitchen from the ash. It is very clear that wherever the sand is blown, ash is blown as well in the same fashion. The point here is that we can prevent the continuation of the ash layer from entering our homes and our lungs. I am sure that if it is coating our cars, windows, and interior of our homes then it is certainly finding refuge in our respiratory system. This is year around and obviously increased dramatically in summer months.

Secondly, the public safety is at risk. Our city and beaches attract thousands of visitors from all over Southern California and beyond. These fire rings allow an extension on their stay. Unlike normal beaches, having fire rings allow these visitors to stay into the dark hours. I cannot say crime is increased, but it makes it easier when there is darkness to commit such acts. The correlation is that if we did not have fire rings, people would be far less likely to stay around the beach after sunset and therefore there is less possibility of crime.

My goal here is to point out that unlike state parks and beaches, residents surround Big Corona. This means the fire rings have a direct impact on the daily lives of residents on Breakers Drive, Ocean Boulevard, and neighboring streets. Putting fire rings in state owned areas tend to have open land and no permanent guests, which makes the smoke concern of little importance. I would stress to all government entities involved in this discussion to understand and support the views of the local residents that live with the decision every day of the year.

Sincerely,

Justin Edson  
3030 Breakers Drive  
Corona del Mar, CA 92625  
949-375-1862

July 17, 2012

California Coastal Commission  
Mr. Karl Schwing, Supervisor, Orange County  
200 Oceangate  
Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Schwing,

I recently learned that the California Coastal Commission is going to decide if Newport Beach can take fire pits off the beach at Corona del Mar. I'm writing to you because of my personal experience of having asthma attacks when I visited my grandmother, Charlotte Stephens, who owns a home at 3014 Breakers Drive. Her house is on the other side of the beach parking lot from where the fire pits are, over by the entry gate. The smoke from the fires often comes into her house.

I was diagnosed with asthma at a very young age, and when I visited my grandmother at her home I would often have asthma attacks. My mother and grandmother understood that my attacks happened when there was a lot of smoke in the air, and it would blow into my grandmother's house from the beach area where the fire pits are. We could smell it and it seemed to be the cause of my attacks, so it became difficult for me to visit my grandmother in her home or be near the beach when the fires were burning, which was practically every night and even daytimes.

Now, as an adult, I know that I can't breathe in smoke without risking an asthma attack or a trip to the hospital. My grandmother still owns the home near the beach in Corona del Mar, but I wouldn't consider going there for fear of the risk. The wood smoke is bad enough and people seem to enjoy burning all of their plastic trash and garbage too, pretty much whatever they don't want to carry home. I guess they don't know they are poisoning themselves. On top of that, I now have a baby, and I wouldn't want to expose my child to being near the smoke.

To me, it seems so unfair that people can burn what they want at the public beach, when I am afraid to go because of the smoke. I don't think the people who like to have bonfires for fun ever think about someone like me who's likely to struggle to breathe or have to go to the hospital with an asthma attack. Even if I didn't have asthma, I don't think I'd want to let my baby breathe the smoke because it gets pretty bad at times. It's sad because the public beach shouldn't exclude people like me who have asthma, or people who just want their kids to grow up healthy.

Please decide that these fire pits can be taken away. I look forward to someday being able to come back to the beach there, and to bring my own child without worrying about breathing in the smoke from all the wood and trash that people burn there.

Thank you.

Andrea Valdestino

July 12, 2012

California Coastal Commission  
Mr. Karl Schwing, Supervisor, Orange County  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Schwing,

The City of Newport Beach wants to remove 60 wood burning beach fire pits. Many people who support recreational wood burning have no idea of the health hazards of breathing wood smoke or simply discount the scientific research.

Bottom line, there are far more reasons to remove the fire rings than to keep them.

### **Top Ten Reasons to Remove Wood Burning Beach Fire Pits**

1. The **EPA** estimates that a single fire burning 10 pounds of wood in an hour will generate over 4,300 times more toxic compounds than 30 cigarettes<sup>1</sup>. Studies show wood smoke is 12 times more carcinogenic than tobacco smoke, and contains many of the same toxic compounds<sup>2</sup>.
2. Southern Californians are among those at highest risk of death due to air pollution<sup>3</sup>. Those who visit the beaches along with those who work or live in the community are exposed to the adverse health consequences of breathing wood smoke. Even a few hours or days of exposure can cause damage.
3. The particles in wood smoke are so small that even energy efficient windows and doors cannot keep them out. **The American Lung Association** informs us these tiny particles are inhaled deep into the lungs and bloodstream causing lung and heart disease, provoking asthma and damaging cells.<sup>4</sup>
4. For vulnerable people with asthma and respiratory disabilities, wood smoke is particularly harmful and known to trigger asthma and heart attacks<sup>5</sup>. Asthma afflicts people of all ages, races, genders, and socioeconomic statuses.
5. Beach fire rings are a serious burn hazard, especially for children according to the **UCI Burn Center**.<sup>6</sup>
6. Recent studies at **University of California, Berkeley** link wood smoke to pneumonia and reduced cognitive abilities in children exposed in utero to smoke from open fires<sup>7</sup>.
7. Carbon soot in wood smoke contributes to climate change. Along with motor vehicles, wood burning is considered to be a major source of particulate air pollution.
8. Wood smoke creates a "toxic barrier" that makes the beach less accessible to 8% of the population who suffer from asthma. In Mallard, Iowa, the **Americans with Disabilities Act** was successfully employed and a US District Court judge handed down a precedent setting case by ordering a burning ban<sup>8</sup>.
9. The **AQMD** made it clear with Rule 445 that even limited exposure to wood smoke can be harmful to human health, particularly to the health of children, the elderly, and those with chronic health conditions<sup>9</sup>.
10. Wood smoke is anything but an amenity – it's a severe public health hazard.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ehhi.org/woodsmoke/health\\_effects.shtml](http://www.ehhi.org/woodsmoke/health_effects.shtml)

<sup>2</sup> <http://burningissues.org/pdfs/WoodSmBroharris.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://californiawatch.org/dailyreport/southern-californians-risk-death-air-pollution-epa-says-14843>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.lung.org/associations/states/california/for-the-media/inthenews/santa-cruz-sentinel-david.html>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general\\_faq.pdf](http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general_faq.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ocregister.com/news/fire-119025-burn-center.html>

<sup>7</sup> [http://fridayletter.asph.org/article\\_view.cfm?fl\\_index=1699&fle\\_index=16931](http://fridayletter.asph.org/article_view.cfm?fl_index=1699&fle_index=16931)

<sup>8</sup> <http://burningissues.org/lukebiomass.html>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general\\_faq.pdf](http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/doc/r445/general_faq.pdf)

Wood fires can no longer be considered a lifestyle enhancement. Over half a century ago when these fire rings were put here, people simply didn't know that wood smoke creates a public health risk, a fact that is now well known and documented. Some people argue in favor of the fire rings by saying "the beach should be for everyone". Indeed, removing the smoke barrier created by the fire rings would truly make the public beach accessible to everyone, including the 8% with asthma and those who wish to remain healthy.

The recreational burning of wood with the toxic smoke that comes from it should not be considered an amenity, especially in a densely populated area like Newport Beach. Please allow the City of Newport Beach to remove the beach fire rings and replace them with an amenity that is accessible to everyone, and does not pollute our beautiful coastline so that all can enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Peters  
3018 Breakers Drive  
Corona del Mar, CA 92625  
(949) 23-7409

Daniel J. Leonard  
3124 Breakers Drive  
Corona del Mar, Ca. 92625

July 10, 2012

Mr. Karl Schwing  
California Coastal Commission  
Supervisor, Orange County  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
Long Beach, Ca. 90802

Dear Mr. Schwing:

A copy of the attached letter, along with the referenced attachments, was sent today via overnight delivery to the 12 voting Commissioners. Please assure these documents are included in the record when the Commission discusses the Corona del Mar State Park Beach fire rings.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Leonard  
President  
cdm fire rings issue

May 31, 2012

California Coastal Commission  
Mr. Karl Schwing  
Supervisor, Orange County  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Schwing:

Most major cities and other cities across our nation are wrestling with wood smoke issues. As the founder and president of Take Back the Air, a Minneapolis-based grassroots organization with connections in most states, I am writing to urge you to uphold Newport Beach's recent decision to remove all wood burning fire rings on the beaches. I am also the Midwest Director for the California-based Clean Air Revival, a one-time project of the Sierra Club..

I hope you will consider, as the Supervisor of the Orange County California Coastal Commission, that there are far more reasons to remove the fire rings than there are reasons to keep them:

- Wood smoke is a well-documented public health hazard that is implicated in asthma attacks, heart attacks, reproductive birth defects and cancers. The EPA, American Lung Association, and US Centers for Disease Control and others indicate there is no safe level of wood smoke. It is implicated in premature death in people of all ages. Children are among the most vulnerable.
- Wood smoke is "the second tobacco smoke", because both share a host of the same toxicants, including formaldehyde, benzene, toluene, dioxins, lead, mercury, sulfur dioxide and arsenic. Many public parks across our country are now going tobacco-free. Newport Beach's new "buffer zone" ruling that disallows smoking not only on beaches, but also within 100 feet of beaches and public parks, makes it prudent that the beaches be free of wood smoke also.
- The ability to burn wood on the beaches is not a public amenity; it presents a negative livability issue as well as being a health and safety hazard. More and more children and others are sustaining serious burns from fire pits. The Beach Authority should protect the public from hazards such as fire and smoke.
- Wood smoke on the beaches limits beach accessibility to people with breathing disabilities such as asthma when wood smoke is in the air. In fact, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that cities remove all barriers that prevent "access" to public spaces for those with disabilities. The beaches should be for all people—not just those who like to burn.
- Additionally, many states have Environmental Rights Acts which provide a means for citizens to bring an action against any person or entity that negatively affects their environment.
- Most cities are concerned with lowering black carbon soot emissions, and may even have edicts from the EPA to do so or lose federal funding. Thus, solutions are being sought to restrict black carbon emissions from various sources. That black carbon soot fine particulates are implicated in global warming is another significant reason to disallow the fire rings.
- Wood smoke also violates the property rights of others to use and enjoy their property.

If you would like more information on the hazards of wood smoke to human health and the environment, please let me know. Cleaner air on the beaches will benefit everyone.

Julie Mellum  
President, Take Back the Air [www.takebacktheair.com](http://www.takebacktheair.com);  
Midwest Director, Clean Air Revival [www.burningissues.org](http://www.burningissues.org)

**David Robert Brown Sc.D.  
Public Health Toxicologist  
Westport, Connecticut  
06880**

Westport Ct.  
May 23, 2012

California Coastal Commission  
Mr. Karl Schwing  
Supervisor, Orange County  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA  
90802

Dear Mr. Schwing:

I understand that your commission has received information on the health effects of wood smoke. I am a Public Health Toxicologist with research and publications on wood smoke exposures and health effects. I have been requested to comment on exposures to wood smoke on beaches. When considering the implications of open burning it is necessary to consider 1) the toxic actions of the smoke emitted, 2) the susceptibility of people exposed, and 3) the weather conditions when the burning occurs.

Burning wood releases a mixture of chemicals and particles of varying toxicity into the air. Although smoke from ground fires can be irritating to the eyes and nose for most people directly exposed, there are also major serious health effects. Fine particles of soot and irritant gases are a threat to people with lung disease and health conditions such as asthma, elderly with chronic obstructive lung disease and those with health conditions. For those people, short periods of smoke inhalation (30 to 90 minutes) can precipitate acute attacks to breathing or cardiac function that can be life threatening. Frequently, if not always in some cases, acute exposures to components of burning wood require the use of "rescue" medications for asthmatic children. While I do not have statistics for Newport Beach rates of school children with asthma range from 1 in 20 to as high as 1 in 5. Substantial numbers of adults also have heart conditions. Given these rates it is likely that susceptible children or adults could be exposed to unsafe smoke emissions at a public beach.

Finally the weather conditions will determine the length of time that fine particle components of the smoke will linger on the beach or the distance that they will travel from the beach in the air. When conditions are optimal the smoke should rise and be diluted in the ocean breezes. Many of us have attended bon fires on beaches. It is not always the case that the smoke is benign.

David R. Brown, Sc.D.

During periods of low wind speeds and low sun light such as occur in the hours before and after dawn and sundown or during cloudy days the smoke from the fires will not rise but stay near the ground and travel great distances into the surrounding community. At Environment and Human Health Inc we have measured high numbers of inhalable particles inside houses at 1500 feet or more from ground level wood burning sources such as fire pits. (EHHI.ORG) The particulate level inside of the houses exceeded the health levels estimated by EPA as capable of inducing acute cardiovascular attacks, asthma attacks and hospitalization of the elderly with COPD.

Community beaches with fire pits bring together all three of the components of a health hazard; emission of toxic materials, susceptible persons and the potential for local weather conditions that can trap emissions at ground level. This would be a health hazard to some people who are coming to the beach and those living near the beach with fire pits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this potential public health issue.

Sincerely

David R. Brown, Sc.D.  
Public Health Toxicologist  
Environment and Human Health Inc.  
Westport, Connecticut  
06880  
Npawlet@aol.com



**Ryan M. Klein, M.D., F.C.C.P.**  
**Diplomate of American Board of Internal**  
**Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, & Critical Care**  
**Medicine**

**Huntington Beach Internal Medicine Group, Inc.**  
**1501 Superior Avenue, Suite #111**  
**Newport Beach, CA 92663**  
**(949) 274 - 8030**

June 18, 2012

RE: Newport Beach city beach fire pits

Mr. Karl Schwing,

I am writing with respect to the fire pits on the city beaches in Newport Beach. I recently appeared at the city council meeting on behalf of their removal.

I was born and raised in Newport Beach. I graduated from Corona del Mar High School where I was Editor of the newspaper, The Trident. I then left for college at Stanford and completed medical education and training attending USC, UCSF, and UCI. I am a physician in the community practicing in three areas of Board Certified expertise: Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine. I am recently Chair of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine at Hoag Hospital.

While I appreciate the image of summer nights and pleasurable times that the fire pits evoke, I have come to recognize their attendant safety considerations which I believe substantiate their removal. More than the risk of smoke-related cancers associated with the second-hand smoke exposure that occurs in and about their midst with a delay of some years, there are immediately present risks to those many people who suffer from asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD) who can experience sudden bouts of life-threatening shortness of breath upon exposure to the thick smoky air and the irritants they contain. Such persons may have increased respiratory symptoms lasting for weeks after exposure, urgent trips to the local Emergency Room for treatment, and, in less common severe cases, emergency transport to hospital and interventions including mechanical ventilation for life support.

There are also risks associated with burn injuries. Even injuries such as stepping on broken glass or other hazards in the sand are concentrated around the fire pit points of congregation.

The health hazards and city liability associated with such associated risks presents responsibilities upon the city to reconsider such public amenities as the fire pits in this day and age as compared to a different time twenty or thirty years ago. I am available to address any clarifications or elaborations if you choose to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. Klein, M.D., F.C.C.P.

**From:** James Floros <Jfloros@burninstitute.org>  
**Subject:** **RE: Fire pits**  
**Date:** June 23, 2012 4:10:18 AM PDT  
**To:** Kathy Hamilton <cocoh1@roadrunner.com>

Kathy - sorry for my delay in getting back to you - been traveling quite a lot as of late. I will reach out to our partners at the UCSD Regional Burn Center and see what we kindof joint support we could lend. Although it's not a popular topic down here, we are very much against fire rings. From what I'm told, not only is the incidence of injury frequent, but more troubling is the severity of the burns - very deep and extensive.

Don't hesitate to follow-up with me.

Thanks!

Jim

James A. Floros  
Executive Director/  
Chief Executive Officer  
Burn Institute  
8825 Aero Dr. #200  
San Diego, CA 92123  
858.541.2277 x 16  
JFloros@BurnInstitute.org  
www.BurnInstitute.org

Sent from my Windows Mobile phone

---

**Ryan M. Klein, M.D., F.C.C.P.**  
**Diplomate of American Board of Internal**  
**Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, & Critical Care**  
**Medicine**

Huntington Beach Internal Medicine Group, Inc.  
1501 Superior Avenue, Suite #111  
Newport Beach, CA 92663  
(949) 274 - 8030

June 18, 2012

RE: Newport Beach city beach fire pits

Mr. Karl Schwing,

I am writing with respect to the fire pits on the city beaches in Newport Beach. I recently appeared at the city council meeting on behalf of their removal.

I was born and raised in Newport Beach. I graduated from Corona del Mar High School where I was Editor of the newspaper, The Trident. I then left for college at Stanford and completed medical education and training attending USC, UCSF, and UCI. I am a physician in the community practicing in three areas of Board Certified expertise: Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine. I am recently Chair of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine at Hoag Hospital.

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The health hazards and city liability associated with such associated risks presents responsibilities upon the city to reconsider such public amenities as the fire pits in this day and age as compared to a different time twenty or thirty years ago. I am available to address any clarifications or elaborations if you choose to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. Klein, M.D., F.C.C.P.



# STANFORD UNIVERSITY

## MARK Z. JACOBSON

Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Director, Atmosphere/Energy Program

Senior Fellow, Precourt Institute for Energy and Woods Institute for the Environment

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Fax: 650-723-7058

[jacobson@stanford.edu](mailto:jacobson@stanford.edu)

[www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson](http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson)



April 6, 2012

California Coastal Commission

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I understand there is a question before you about the potential health hazards of wood-burning fires on beaches. I have worked in the area of air pollution computer modeling and data analysis for 22 years and regularly use epidemiological data to simulate the local, city, and statewide effects of air pollution. One rule of thumb based on epidemiological data is that there is no low threshold level to the health effects (including mortality) of small air pollution particles (generally referred to as  $PM_{2.5}$ ). Short-term exposure to  $PM_{2.5}$  has been linked to increases in hospitalizations, emergency-room visits, and mortality, primarily to those most susceptible, including the elderly, asthmatics, young children, and those who are already weak from illness or poor health.

Beach fires are usually set in the evening or night, when the surface has cooled relative to the air above, creating a temperature inversion. Under an inversion, emitted smoke accumulates, increasing its concentration and the total mass of smoke inhaled in one breath. While one fire may seem innocuous, it is not, and the accumulation of smoke under an inversion from multiple beach fires simultaneously can be a severe health hazard, equivalent to smoking a pack or more of cigarettes under the right meteorological conditions. I experienced the unpleasant nature of multiple fires once at the beach below Seascapes, in Aptos. The smoke from the multiple burning fires on the beach was so dense, visibility dropped significantly, smoke coated my clothing and skin, and every breath was uncomfortable. Because the atmosphere was so unpleasant, I left the beach within moments.

In sum, based on what I know about health impacts of pollution and my own experience with beach fires, fires on beaches appear to be an unnecessary public health hazard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Z. Jacobson".

Mark Z. Jacobson

Daniel J. Leonard  
3124 Breakers Drive  
Corona del Mar, Ca. 92625

July 10, 2012

Chair Mary K. Shallenberger  
California Coastal Commission  
P. O. Box 354  
Clements, Ca. 95227-0354

Dear Chairwoman Shallenberger:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Breakers Drive Homeowners Association (BDHA) and all its members who reside on both Breakers Drive and on Ocean Blvd. The residents urge you to remove the fire rings from Corona del Mar State Park beach. Many residents have communicated with the members of the Newport Beach Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission and the Newport Beach City Council and I include copies for your review. Some of the reasons the BDHA requests removal of the fire rings are:

- A number of residents and family members contracted breathing disorders and lung diseases, some being fatal.
- The fire rings can and have caused burn injuries to children.
- The fire rings attract individuals who are involved in gang activities and their sole purpose is to cause trouble including fights requiring police response.
- The BDHA residents suffer from dirty air, excessive ash, and soot and burn residue from the fires on the beach. This is often exacerbated by breezes off the ocean.

The many letters attached address the health aspects of wood burning. It is just plain UNHEALTHY. Now is the time to clean our air, not only for local residents but also for all people enjoying the beaches.

Please remove the fire rings.

Daniel J. Leonard  
President  
cdm fire rings issue

## Zdeba, Benjamin

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**From:** Detweiler, Laura  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 17, 2012 5:36 PM  
**To:** Zdeba, Benjamin  
**Subject:** FW: Fire Rings

Correspondence below.

LAURA DETWEILER, MA | Director  
Recreation & Senior Services Department  
City of Newport Beach  
City Hall - 3300 Newport Boulevard, Newport Beach CA 92663  
p: 949-644-3157 | f: 949-644-3155 | e: [ldetweiler@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:ldetweiler@newportbeachca.gov)  
visit us: [www.newportbeachca.gov/recreation](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/recreation)

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**From:** Shirley Brandie [<mailto:s.brandie@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 17, 2012 5:32 PM  
**To:** [Karl.Schwing@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Karl.Schwing@coastal.ca.gov)  
**Cc:** Detweiler, Laura  
**Subject:** Fire Rings

July 17, 2012

California Coastal Commission  
Mr. Karl Schwing, Supervisor, Orange County  
200 Oceangate  
Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. Schwing,

My name is Shirley Brandie and I live in Ontario, Canada. I am writing to you to urge the California Coastal Commission to allow the City of Newport Beach to remove wood burning fire pits. Just like in Newport Beach, in my community residents were suffering from health concerns due to wood smoke.

In September of 2011, we went to trial after exhausting other efforts to get relief from wood smoke entering our home from burning in a residential area. We were fortunate enough to have the means to seek legal help. After several delays and an Appeal Hearing, our case came to trial on September 12, 2011 in the Superior Court in Windsor, Ontario Canada with Justice Nolan presiding. The outcome was a victory for us, leading to a permanent injunction, damages, and an easement, such that the burning ceased and cannot be resumed.

The stench permeated our home, caused burning eyes, dry throat, irritation of the nasal passages and headaches. When the smoke stopped, so did the symptoms. There was no relief because the acrid smells were like a fog covering our house and we could not keep it out. Buying expensive air cleaners did nothing to remove the odors and residues from the smoke.

I can tell you first-hand that no one should be forced to live with a smoke issue. It was the last thing we could have ever imagined would happen to us. We went through a nightmare of 8 months that we could not live in our home, the expense of litigation, and the work required to rid our house of the toxins from the smoke before we could move back in.

Our municipalities are now beginning to realize that public interest is not well served when the health of citizens is put at risk due to breathing wood smoke. Especially at risk are those with young children or elderly family members and those who have respiratory or heart conditions. It is a thought that is very disturbing.

Since this affected me and my family personally, I have networked with many others throughout North America who seek to educate public agencies and municipalities on the health risks associated with unnecessary burning. Please make the ethical choice to permit the City of Newport Beach to take responsible civic action and replace these fire pits with something more amenable to everyone.

Regards,

Shirley Brandie

3 Main Street-Unit 4,

Dover Center, Ontario

Canada N0P 1L0

## Zdeba, Benjamin

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**From:** Detweiler, Laura  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 7:57 AM  
**To:** Zdeba, Benjamin  
**Subject:** FW: Why wood smoke emissions should be regulated

Additional correspondence below.

**LAURA DETWEILER, MA** | Director  
Recreation & Senior Services Department  
City of Newport Beach  
City Hall - 3300 Newport Boulevard, Newport Beach CA 92663  
p: 949-644-3157 | f: 949-644-3155 | e: [ldetweiler@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:ldetweiler@newportbeachca.gov)  
visit us: [www.newportbeachca.gov/recreation](http://www.newportbeachca.gov/recreation)

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**From:** Barbara Peters [<mailto:barbaraannpeters@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2012 5:59 PM  
**To:** Detweiler, Laura  
**Subject:** Fwd: Why wood smoke emissions should be regulated

Dear Laura,

Here is a letter from Nancy Alderman, the President of Environment and Human Health, Inc. to include in your documents for the California Coastal Commission.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is an impressive group. Here is a link to their board <http://www.ehhi.org/about/board.shtml>, listing doctors affiliated with the cancer center at Yale as well as Yale's school of medicine, and other highly credentialed scientists and wood smoke experts.

Thank you for your work to provide the scientific and medical facts about wood smoke to the California Coastal Commission.

Barbara

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Nancy Alderman <[nancy.alderman@yale.edu](mailto:nancy.alderman@yale.edu)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 9, 2012 at 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** Why wood smoke emissions should be regulated  
**To:** [Karl.Schwing@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Karl.Schwing@coastal.ca.gov)

California Coastal Commission  
Mr. Karl Schwing  
Supervisor, Orange County  
200 Oceangate, Suite 1000  
Long Beach, CA 90802



Monday, July 9, 2012

Dear Karl Schwing, Supervisor, Orange County

Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) has been working for years to educate people about the harmful effects of wood smoke as well as working for better regulations to protect the public from the harmful effects of wood smoke exposures.

EHHI is a ten-member non-profit organization composed of doctors, public health professionals and policy experts who are dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms through research, education and the promotion of sound public policy. EHHI is not a membership organization and therefore all of its support comes from foundations and committed individuals. EHHI does not receive any funds from businesses or corporations.

Although wood smoke conjures up fond memories of sitting by a fire, it is important to know that the components of wood smoke and cigarette smoke are quite similar, and that many components of both are carcinogenic. Wood smoke contains fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, sulfur dioxide and various irritant gases such as nitrogen oxides that can scar the lungs. Wood smoke also contains chemicals known or suspected to be carcinogens, such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and dioxin.

Wood smoke interferes with normal lung development in infants and children. It also increases children's risk of lower respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

Wood smoke exposure can depress the immune system and damage the layer of cells in the lungs that protect and cleanse the airways. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), toxic air pollutants are components of wood smoke. Wood smoke can cause coughs, headaches, eye, and throat irritation in otherwise healthy people. For vulnerable populations, such as people with asthma, chronic respiratory disease and those with cardiovascular disease, wood smoke is particularly harmful- even short exposures can prove dangerous.

The particles of wood smoke are extremely small and therefore are not filtered out by the nose or the upper respiratory system. Instead, these small particles end up deep in the lungs where they remain for months, causing structural damage and chemical changes. Wood smoke's carcinogenic chemicals adhere to these tiny particles, which enter deep into the lungs.

Recent studies show that fine particles that go deep into the lungs increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes. EPA warns those people with heart disease that short- term exposures have been linked to heart attacks and arrhythmias. For those with heart disease, the tiny particles of wood smoke may cause chest pains, palpitations, shortness of breath, and fatigue.

The particulate matter in wood smoke is so small that windows and doors cannot keep the wood smoke out - and even the newer energy-efficient weather-tight homes cannot keep the wood smoke emissions out.

It is important for towns, counties, states and their agencies to protect people from wood smoke exposures. If people and their properties are to be protected, then those who have the power to enforce protective wood smoke emission regulations must do so.

Nancy Alderman, President  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.

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Nancy Alderman, President  
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North Haven, CT 06473  
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